

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 23, 1998*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Children's Health Insurance Accountability Act. Children are not "little adults." They have health care needs that often require pediatric expertise to understand, diagnose, and treat correctly.

This legislation recognizes the fundamental fact that children's health and developmental needs are different than those of adults. Children, therefore, should not be left out of the debate on managed care quality and consumer protection, as they so often are.

In fact, the President's Advisory Commission neglected to mention children when it released its original "Bill of Rights" last fall. As a result, 121 organizations both nationally and at the local level co-signed a letter to the Commission urging its members not to make the same mistake twice. As a result, the Commission notes in its recently released final report, "Children have health and developmental needs that are markedly different from adults and require age-appropriate care. Developmental changes, dependency on others, and different patterns of illness and injury require that attention be paid to the unique needs of children in the health system." The Commission adds, "Attention to the quality of health care for children is especially important given their health and developmental needs and their promise for the future."

Unfortunately, many of the bills that have been introduced in the Congress to address various aspects of health care quality and consumer protection do not incorporate the special needs of children to receive quality care and appropriate care when needed to ensure their healthy development. What does this mean?

Child-friendly health care means allowing families to pick a pediatrician as the child's primary care provider.

Child-friendly health care means providing children access to a pediatric specialist rather than an adult specialist for a life-threatening, disabling or chronic condition.

Child-friendly health care means allowing families to appeal health plans' decisions to someone who understands the care of children, such as a provider with pediatric expertise.

Child-friendly health care means ensuring that plans report information in a manner that is separate for both the adult and child enrollees using measures that are specific to each group. Health care cannot be "one size fits all." Children need "Straight A" health plans—plans that address children's specific needs in terms of Access to Care, Appeals, and Accountability.

Organizations endorsing this initiative include: the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of Children's Hospitals, the National Organization of Rare Diseases, the ARC of the United States, Families USA, the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American College of Emergency Physicians, Families USA, the Children's Defense Fund and the National Mental Health Association.

I share the concerns of a growing number of parents about the quality of their children's health care, and I will work to ensure that managed care recognizes children's unique health needs.

## A TRIBUTE TO JOHN J. YOUNG

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 23, 1998*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the distinguished career of a friend and constituent, John J. Young, upon his retirement as Executive Director of the Hamilton County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board. The ADAS Board is responsible for planning and coordinating alcohol and drug addiction services in Hamilton County, Ohio.

Mr. Young received his Bachelor of Science degree from Xavier University in 1967, and received his Masters in Education from the University of Cincinnati in 1972. He has been an Advanced Member of the American College of Addiction Treatment Administrators since 1989. Prior to his current executive leadership with the ADAS Board, John served over 20 years managing and delivering alcohol and other drug addiction services in the Greater Cincinnati area.

John was instrumental in the conversion of the former Rollman Psychiatric Institute to the Hamilton County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Center. His efforts have resulted in developing the alcohol and drug treatment component of the Hamilton County Drug Court, the first such initiative in the state of Ohio. John is also currently co-chair of the Community Task Force of the Coalition for a Drug Free Greater Cincinnati. He is a member of the Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Addiction for the State of Ohio, and is a founding member of Ohio's Federation of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Boards.

John has not limited his community involvement to just alcohol and drug addiction services. He is Vice President of the Executive Committee of the Hamilton County Family and Children First Council. He is a member of Leadership Cincinnati, Leadership Ohio, the Cincinnati Association, and the Hamilton County Corrections Planning Board and the Hamilton County Human Services Planning Board.

John Young has devoted much of his career to serving others in our community, and all of us in Cincinnati thank John for his service and wish him well in his future pursuits.

## RECOGNIZING MARIA CONTRERAS

**HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 23, 1998*

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a truly unique individual. Maria Contreras is the founder and coordinator of Soldiers of Health in Roxbury, Massachusetts.

Ms. Contreras, an immigrant from the Dominican Republic, was recognized by the Community Health Leadership Program, supported by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, as one of this year's ten outstanding individuals changing the shape of health care in America. Selected from more than 500 candidates from all over the country, Ms. Contreras will receive \$100,000 for her work to improve access to health and social services for more than 500 families in the Roxbury, Massachusetts area.

A 23-year resident of the Egleston Square neighborhood, Ms. Contreras watched her neighbors suffer violence, depression, illness and isolation. In 1995, when a 16-month old infant was injured in a drive-by shooting, Contreras refused to stand by and watch. She began a dialogue, talking to kids on street corners and meeting with tired parents, frightened neighbors and frustrated police.

Ms. Contreras' attempts at bringing neighbors together were initially met with finding a door slammed in her face. She is an effective advocate. After getting to know many of the youth-at-risk, Ms. Contreras listened to what they had to say and came up with realistic alternatives to hanging out on street corners such as after school tutoring programs, enrollment in GED courses, part and full-time jobs and week-long hiking trips.

In 1996, Ms. Contreras launched Soldiers of Health, a neighbor-to-neighbor outreach program that addresses the violence, poor health and substandard living conditions by re-connecting people-in-need to available services. Currently, 14 soldiers who live in Egleston Square spend 22 hours each month walking their assigned streets, meeting as many people as possible. They pay attention to the health concerns of the elderly and get to know the kids hanging on the corner. Over time, they break down barriers to link people together whether it is helping them access the medical assistance they need or getting the education that's necessary to move beyond the corner and into a job.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate and thank Maria Contreras for her dedication and work in making Roxbury a better place and a model for tomorrow.

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